



Ø BEAT

COLO. SPRINGS.
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JULY 1981

RADIO — A Lifelong Turn On

WHAT SWITCHED YOU ON TO HAM RADIO?

Away back before WWII, coax, 2 Meters, SSB, and WO— & seemingly light years before Bell Labs introduced the transistor which emitted the solid-state explosion in which we are all engulfed, Ham Radio was indeed different than you know it now. Nevertheless it held the same spell binding intrigue to a young boy or girl whose imagination was fired then as today by an "encounter" with the mystical world of RADIO or Wireless as it was then still commonly termed.

It was 1930 before most US citizens could acquire an all-electric radio, a most welcome advance over the burdensome A, B, & C Battery versions of the middle 20's when Atwater Kent, Crosly, Stuart Warner, Freidiesman, Bremmer Tully, Radiola and other revered names dominated the scene. Majestic scooped the market with an "all electric" composite which was little more than a warmed over conventional battery set but with substitution of tungsol A and B eliminator packs set on a lower shelf alongside a newly developed DYNAMIC speaker giving out a deep (no highs) new all electric voice of authority heretofore unknown in home radio. Close on Majestic's heels was Philco but with a truly new and totally all electric design which became epic using screen grid tubes and a UX 280 full wave rectifier in an integrated power supply. The rest you probably know all about right up to the present era of mobile DX and Dick Tracy 2-way handi-talkies.

My "encounter" with the magic world of RADIO turned me on in the late 20's with a piece of galena crystal from Mom's rock collection in conjunction with a "Catwhisker" requiring a deft touch of a skilled surgeon, a pair of Brandes earphones (3000 Ohms), a coil of wire liberated from Dad's left over Model "T" Ford spark coils close wound on a 4" Quaker Oats box and slider tuned from end to end. 4 fahnstock slips salvaged from

defunct dry cells served as terminals for the 200' antenna, earth ground, and the 2 earphone tips. Oh yes, a 0.00025 mica fixed condenser across the earphone tips really perked things up.

With this classy little chassis I not only heard WHO, Des Moines (local) but by staying up all night which became my habit I could log KDKA Pittsburgh, Pa., WLW Cincinnati, WGN Chicago, WOW Omaha, KOA Denver, KSL Salt Lake, and KFI Los Angeles on a good night. Man Alive! I've never been the same since. Henceforth, I ate, drank, dreamed and yes sometimes even slept RADIO. A flurry of 1 tubers followed using UV WD-11's, 199's, & 201A. With a UX 224 screen grid detector & a 271 audio, my 1st shortwave receiver I sat spellbound and earphoned to Capt. Steven's 1932 high altitude record making balloon ascent at Rapid City, S.D. & thrilled to witness his narrow escape from death as his ripped bag fairly plummeted to earth — and I heard every word of it, profanity and all. (That was rare in those days, hi.)

The code, I learned 1st by wig-wag in scouting but built up speed to 16 WPM in the summer of '33 during a family trip to Mexico by calling off billboards in dits and dahs much to the pain of family members, hi. I proceeded to read everything available especially Hugo Gernsback's Shortwave Craft which sometimes seemed to have switched covers with another of his publications, Wonder Stories. I visited every visible antenna under which lived a Ham and finally at long last during the Christmas holidays in '33 that beautiful Federal Radio Commission Ticket made me "Two Gun Louie", something I will never live down (as if I wanted to.) Yes, Santa Claus really arrived that year and I've been switched on and off ever since — HOW ABOUT YOU?

73,

Ken Keyte, WØTGL

P.P.R.A.A. DIRECTORS

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(* Two-year board terms began October 1980)

ZERO BEAT is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., Colorado Springs, Colorado. Permission is given to reprint articles or excerpts provided credit is given. Deadline for submission of articles is the 21st of the month. Classifieds accepted anytime.

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets on the second Wednesday of every month at the First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada, at 7:30 p.m. All amateurs and interested parties are invited to attend.

Editor: Don Lohse KBØKQ, 1410 E. LaSalle, Colorado Springs, CO 80907 635-7469

PPRAA MINUTES — JUNE 1981

The June 1981 meeting of the PPRAA was called to order at 7:37 PM, June 10, 1981. Presiding was club president Dave Vierling, NØDV. There were thirty members and guests present.

This was the first meeting of the club at our new temporary QTH. Many thanks to the First Methodist Church of Colorado Springs for allowing us to use one of their meeting rooms and thanks to Don Chatelain, WDØBSZ, for negotiating the deal.

Secretary, Bill, KFØW, gave a brief report on the club incorporation status. He was sorry to report that no progress had been made last month due to heavy schedules of the parties involved; Bill, KFØW; Doug, WBØMHP; Marilyn, KAØGIK; and Don, KBØKQ. After vacation season we will hopefully get the whole thing squared away.

Doug, WBØMHP, gave the treasury report — \$1,895.69, as of June 10, 1981 — an all time high! Good going gang!

Don, KBØKQ, gave a report on Springspree. It will be June 20—21. The event will get underway in the downtown area of Colorado Springs about 7 AM Saturday morning. It will move to Monument Valley Park about noon Saturday for the duration. Don said that the Springspree organization is a great group and deserved our full support. Don also stated that he still had need of people Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon.

Don reported that ZERO BEAT would need a bit of help this month as he will be going on vacation. All articles and ads need to be in by June 20th.

Doug, WBØMHP, gave a report from the interference committee. He said he has been working on a very persistent stereo problem. Also, we have a new interference committee chairman, Greg Utterback, KAØFOZ. Doug stressed the need to react to interference complaints quickly so as to maintain harmony between we hams and the community.

Ray, AAØL, reported that he would be operating the VHF contest Saturday, June 13th. He invited anyone interested to come out to his place in Black Forest. Ray further said that at the same time he would conduct a mini-class on the ins and outs of coping with TVI and RFI.

Dave, NØDV, reported that we still are in desperate need of a public relations person. Any volunteers?!!!

Dave further reported that Bud Libengood has volunteered to be our representative to the CCARC; so

please give Bud your input and questions concerning the goings on of that organization. The next meeting of CCARC will be August 1st, at Glenwood Springs; contact Bud or Oak, KØROL, for details.

The report from the education committee was that they are on standby until Fall. That committee does, however, need a new chairperson — so, if you have been looking for an opportunity to share your Ham Radio expertise with someone, here is your chance!!

Along this line; Don, KBØKQ, reports that due to our club's long involvement with the Colorado Springs Community School System at North Junior High, they would like someone from our club to sit on their advisory committee — please see Don for details.

Bob, KØDJ, raised the question of whether or not the PPRAA was a bonified ARRL affiliate club or not. KAØDST, moved that the club secretary research the subject, write a letter of inquiry to the ARRL and report to the members at the September meeting. The motion was carried by a majority vote. (It doesn't really take a vote to get me to do something — it just seems that way).

Frank, WBØPAI, reported that Barron Pittinger had contacted him and asked if our club could help with communications on July 4th. On that day, the Olympic

(continued on page 3)

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VHF AT FIELD DAY

VHF will be alive and well at Field Day.

Again this year FD will have a working 6 meter, 2 meter, and 70 centimeter station. According to Ray AAØL, we will operate FD on the "AC Bands". Ray also challenged the "DC banders" this Field Day for the longest distance.

Our "ace-in-the-hole" will be an OSCAR satellite station, which will gather an extra 100 points for an OSCAR contact.

You may wonder why Ray made this challenge! Well, the one way to find out is to come to Field Day to see how we're going to do it. I should add, we will be legal!

Any ham interested in operating the VHF and HF stations is welcome. Only two criteria; 1) your ham license and 2) your presence. For directions to the FD site, see the map in this issue of ZERO BEAT. Remember the dates — June 27 and 28.

See you there!
Doug, WBØMHP

Leo Hofelich

NOBOA

Died June 1, 1981

Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Torch atop Pikes Peak will be brought down and begin its long trek Eastward for the upcoming Sports Festival. Frank reported that there will be a meeting of the OTC on Monday, June 15th to discuss the details.

Dave, NØDV, showed us one of the antennas built last month at the Colvin QTH. Very F.B. multiband dipole. He said there were three complete antennas and enough stuff for one more.

The Hammy this month went to Charleen, WBØYOB, for her many and varied contributions to the club. Nice going Charleen, and many thanks!!!

Frank, WBØPAJ, in a supremely generous move gave the club a Century 21 transceiver and crystal calibrator for use at the Novice station on Field Day and for the classes throughout the year. Frank, your generosity will be appreciated by club members for years to come; many thanks!!!

Next month's program will be by Ray, AAØL; the subject will be pertinent to VSWR and how much it doesn't hurt you.

The program part of the June meeting was devoted to Field Day preparations. Field Day this year will be June 27th and 28th. The location will be same as last year; 1½ miles north of Woodland Park on the Rampart Range Road. As of meeting night, all preparations were going smoothly and according to plan.

The June Board Meeting will be 7:30 P.M., Monday, June 15th at Ray, AAØL's QTH.

The club picnic this year is still up in the air. It was felt that we would perhaps have a better turn out for the picnic if it could be held in or near Colorado Springs. However, all of the city parks are booked solid for the summer. Smitty, WBØLTV, will check on the availability of county picnic sites.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill, KFØW — 73's

FOXY CHILI TEAM

For those of you who may not have heard, a team composed of eight local hams was the winner in the Colorado Chili Cooking Contest held in the Springs in May. Team captain Bob Keller ABØF and his recipe for Foxy Chili came in first over many other competitors. Other team members were KBØNN, AEØW, AEØH, KGØM, WØMXY, ABØA and WDØCDC. An HF station was set up at the OTC where the event was held, and 100 plus contacts were made around the country. QSL's will be sent to confirm this "hot" contact. Congratulations gentleman!, and good luck in the National Chili Cook Off in California later this year.

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT VSWR BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK!

The July program will be on transmission lines, standing waves and matching. I am making arrangements for a computer generated display of incident, reflected and standing waves to aid in the understanding of what SWR is all about. Come equipped with plenty of questions. Here are some questions you can answer as starter. Bring your ZERO BEAT and answers with you to the meeting and lets have some fun.

True or False?

- _____ 1. SWR should be measured at half wave intervals from the antenna to be accurate.
- _____ 2. A high SWR will cause the coax to generate and radiate TVI.
- _____ 3. A lower SWR means the antenna will radiate more power.
- _____ 4. An SWR of 6:1 means approximately 50% of the power is being wasted.
- _____ 1. A 1:1 balun should not improve the SWR.

Ray AAØL

Typesetting courtesy The Letter Setters

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JUNE BOARD MINUTES

The board meeting was held at Ray and Diane Uberecken's home at 9635 Thoroughbred Lane at 6:30 P.M. on June 15, 1981. Diane prepared a feast of charcoal broiled hamburgers, salads, desert, and lots of conversation. The board met at 8 P.M. The food was excellent!!

Those present were NØDV, Dave Vierling and his sons Lee and Tim; WDOGTA, Les Borst, Jodi and Rene'; KFOV, Bill Allen; WBØMHP, Doug Moloney, Cheri, Christine, Anne, and John; AAØL, Ray Uberecken, Diane, and Rick; KBØKQ, Don Lohse; WBØYOB, Charleen Colvin and Jim NØAVY; ADOZ, Al Bailey; and WBØPAJ, Frank Freiler.

The first item of business concerned the CCARC Call Books. At the last meeting, KØROL Oak Stockton presented Doug with a check and 8 unsold call books. Also turned in was the resignation from the club of WØRNT, Chuck Myers. The twenty call books the club had received as reserve copies will be returned to CCARC.

ZERO BEAT articles need to be to Don Lohse no later than Saturday, June 20, so that we can meet at Doug Moloney's at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, June 24, to assemble ZERO BEAT for distribution. The present circulation is 300 copies at the cost of \$40.

The generator which belongs to Pete DeMario for which the club has been custodian for years will be returned to Pete as soon as possible.

The IEEE for Ham Operators will be Wednesday, June 17, at 7:30 P.M. at the Denver Hilton. Ray Uberecken, Doug Monoley, and Jim Colvin will furnish taxis for those wishing to attend.

Ray announced that KAØFOZ, Greg Utterback will take over as the chairman of the Interference Committee. Ray and Doug met with Greg Saturday, June 13, and got all the equipment he needed assembled and they will work together until outstanding calls are completed.

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Dave Vierling reported that plans are going well for Field Day. Still need housing for a couple of stations, but all equipment is taken care of and Air Force MARS station will operate with us also. We will use the club call WAOVTU.

Frank Freiler, WBØPAJ, reported on his meeting with members of the USOC to coordinate radio communications for the ceremony lighting the Olympic Torch atop Pikes Peak and the runner bringing the torch down the Peak on its way to Syracuse, N.Y. for the National Sports Festival. Ken Keyte, WOTGL, will go to the top at 5:30 A.M. July 4 where the torch will be lit at 7:45 A.M. and follow the runner down starting at 8 A.M. Five other hams, WDOGTA, WBØMHP, WBØPAJ, WBØYOB and KØDJ will assist WOTGL. They will use 146.52 and 146.76 as a back up with 146.94 as emergency only.

The plans for the August picnic were tabled until a report on a possible site was received.

The board gave Les Borst the go ahead to order crystals for the club Icom for 147.135.

The following programs are planned: July, AAØL, Ray on Reflections; August, KØPGM, Lys Carey, will speak; September, KAØFOZ, Greg Utterback on interference; and October meeting election of new officers. Future programs planned are legal problems with towers, home brew night, Martin Marietta on MMU to be used on next flight into space, and Public Utilities on high voltage.

We will continue to meet at First United Methodist Church at Boulder and Nevada the rest of the summer.

The next board meeting will be July 13 at Al Bailey's, 2715 Alteza Lane at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Charleen, WBØYOB

WANTED — Icom 225 and Central Electronics 100V.
Steve KØCI, 596-6594

HAMS TAKE 1ST PLACE IN COMMUNICATING FOR OUTHOUSE RACE

Again this year the PPRAA was asked to provide communications for the Black Forest Outhouse races, but only as back-up. As the parade proceeded and the race got underway, it became apparent the F1 and F2 layers were too highly ionized and the 2 meter (back-up) system took 1st place.

Our only primary function prior to the event was to provide communications for the Red Cross First Aid volunteers. The low band system was to: coordinate, relay times, course conditions, and crowd control. In addition to our primary function, all the other needs were handled by the 13 hams on the course.

The Red Cross realizing our value, asked if it would be possible to have a ham ride with their van. Through a stroke of luck an extra ham, rig, and magnetic antenna were all available and the van became radio equipped.

A communications center was planned by the race committee at the Black Forest Post Office. Our net control, the El Paso Sheriff, and the primary net control were set up there. The medical coordinator was located across the street at the BF Fire Dept. Manning the net control were Dave WBØSDW and Doug WBØMHP. At the Fire Dept. was Bill KFØW.

At each of three relay points on the one mile race course an amateur and low band communicator were stationed. Participating for the PPRAA were Don KBØKQ at relay #1, Smitty WBØLTV at relay #2, and Mike KØTER at relay #3.

At each of the three Red Cross First Aid tents, communications were provided exclusively by hams. Faye KBOQI, Dave WBØSSG and Dennis WBØYKH kept the Red Cross in touch with the rest of the world. The Red Cross van was manned by Hollis, a visiting 4-lander.

The start and finish lines were usually the busiest most of the day. Since one heat had to be completed before the next one could be run, Warren WBØSJR (start-line) and Ralph KAØGJO (finish-line) along with the hams at each relay point were the eyes and ears of the race officials and timers.

Last, but not least was a member of the "Schmidt House Gang" (2nd place in the men's races) our very own ADOZ, Al, who took very good care of the other 12 of us by making sure we had adequate refreshments during the event.

To sum it all up, amateur radio came through in flying colors. If I may quote our host (the post office custodian) "Why do you call yourselves amateurs? You're too professional for that!"

We can all be proud of a job well done, and Dave WBØSDW and myself want to thank the group for making this communications event a huge success. I look forward to the next Outhouse Race, but according to the County Commissioners it won't be in the Black Forest next year. Because of this, this year's race may have been the last; let's hope not!

Thanks again & 73's,
Doug, WBØMHP

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-120S, 6 months old, mint condition, used less than 10 hours, with MC-30 microphone, \$550. Drake MN-7 Transmatch/Wattmeter, excellent condition, \$250. Call Mark Thompson — WB9QZB, (303) 597-0006.

SPRINGSFREE

In ninety degree heat and sometimes force ten confusion, the 1981 edition of Springsfree came off smoothly on June 20 and 21. 14 hams handled all of the administrative communications and event coverage for the event. With few exceptions, the following amateurs gave the organizers a clear and concise picture of what was happening in all areas of the celebration: WDOGTA, WOTGL, ADOO, WBOSJR, KFØW, K4YCD, WAØYTK, KBOHW, WØMBZ, WBØLTV, WBØSSG, KA7HFJ, KA7HFI, AND KBØKQ. Our services were enthusiastically praised and we were asked to please help again next year. To all who participated, from the people in charge — **Well Done!**

FOR SALE: Hallicraft 6X 110 receiver in excellent condition, 5—32 MHz, good general coverage, SWL ham receiver. Night T60 X-Mtr 60W XTAL controlled 10—80 M, needs 1 DQ6 final. AMECO code osc. & record. Heathkit and misc. equipment — manuals on all gear. \$75 for the works! Melvin E. Walters 632-6082.

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MEETING NOTICE

The July meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will be held on July 8, 1981 at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, located at the corner of Nevada and Boulder Avenues. The program will be given by Ray AAOL, and will concern standing waves and transmission lines (see Ray's note elsewhere in this issue). All members and interested persons are invited to attend.

FIELD DAY MAP

- Leave Colorado Springs on US 24 West toward Woodland Park.
- Turn right at the sign that says "Teller County Sheriff Substation"
- Go left at the fork where the sign says "Rampart Range Road to Denver"
- You're there.



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